

Re: FCC Proceeding 12-375

I am a law student at NYU. Last year, I represented an indigent asylee who was detained in Hudson County Correctional Facility for over seven months. Immigrants facing the possibility of deportation desperately need to be able to communicate with their children, siblings, parents, and anyone helping them with their cases. My client, who eventually won his case, was unable to make crucially important phone calls to me and to his family, because the rates were exorbitant. This undoubtedly hurt my ability to represent him; deepened his feelings of isolation, hopelessness, and depression; and harmed the development of his young U.S. citizen children. Phone calls should be free or close to free, but instead they are so expensive as to be cost prohibitive. Who profits from the current system? Certainly not the justice system or society at large.